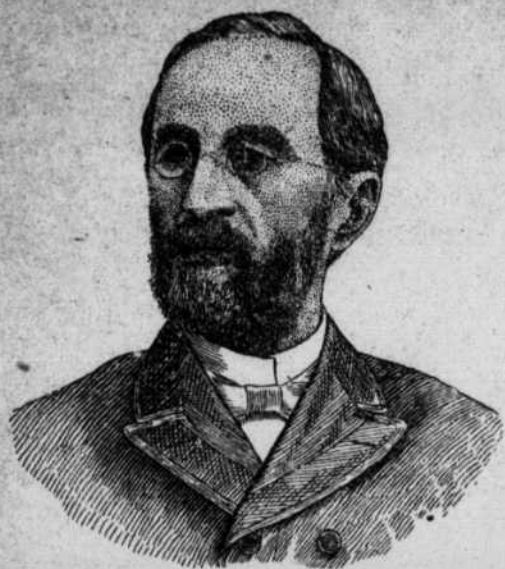


Biographical.



HENRY R. HOLSINGER.

Henry R. Holsinger was born May 26, 1833, in Morrison's Cove, Bedford county, Pennsylvania. His father, Daniel M., and his grandfather John, were ministers in the Dunkard church. His father died at the age of 73 years and his mother at 83. When about ten years of age Henry had an attack of influenza, which culminated into a chronic disease with which he will have to battle throughout life. On this account he did not obtain all the advantages of the common schools, which he might have received even at that early date. He himself attributes whatever desire for and success in literature he may have attained, to a generous supply of newspaper reading in his early boyhood days. His first effort in this line was in the school-room. He taught six terms of the common schools, in the neighborhood where he was raised, (Martinsburg, Blair County,) and attended the Normal schools and Teachers' Institutes as much as his circumstances would admit during the vacations, the meanwhile giving special attention to self culture. But his admiration of newspapers inspired a desire to know something about their manufacture and circulation. An opportunity to do so was offered by the "Gospel Visitor," a monthly pamphlet, published by Elder Henry Kurtz, near Poland, Ohio. There he served an apprenticeship of one year, residing in the family of Elder Kurtz until the office was moved to Columbiana, O., where he lived with Elder James Quinter until a short time before the death of Sister Quinter.

He was converted and received into the Dunkard church at Clover Creek, Pa., in the Spring of 1855. In the Spring of 1863 he moved to Tyrone, Pa., and in May of the same year commenced the publication of the Tyrone Herald. His membership was then placed with the Warriors Mark church, in charge of Elder Graybill Myers. Here he was called to the minis-

try in October 1866, and shortly afterwards advanced to the "second degree." In the Spring of 1864 he began prospecting for the publication of the "Christian Family Companion," a weekly church paper. He obtained the privilege of doing so of the District meeting of the Middle District of Pennsylvania, in which he was located, and immediately proceeded to issue and distribute a "specimen copy," which brought in quite a list of proposed subscribers. Regular publication, however, was postponed until Jan. 1, 1865, when it started out with 485 bonafide subscribers. The publication of the Herald was then suspended, and our young adventurer devoted all his energies upon the church paper. The "Companion" rapidly grew in favor with the people for whom it was being published. It was the only weekly paper in the brotherhood affording a medium for the free exchange of views upon all subjects of interest, as well as communicating church news, and thus being informed of the extent and location of the various congregations, which seemed to be greatly appreciated. Of course it also met with strong opposition from the very conservative element, but this only seemed to advertise the enterprise and enthruse its friends. January 1870, he commenced the publication of the "Pious Youth," a monthly juvenile paper which was continued for two years and then suspended for want of remunerative patronage.

In 1872 the publishing house was removed to Dale City now Meyersdale, Somerset county, for the sake of better church facilities for those connected with the office. Here he had a building erected for a publishing house, 20x40, three stories. The Brethren's Tune and Hymn Book, the Brethren's Almanac and the Dale City Record, a local paper, were added to the list of publications. The subscription of the Companion continued to increase until in 1873 it had a circulation of over 5000 weekly; but there was such a bitter and unreasonable opposition that Elder H. became discouraged, lost interest in his work, and immediately after the Annual Meeting of 1873, held at Meyersdale, he sold out to Elder James Quinter, who took charge of the office at the close of the year. He was then just in shape to make money, and was aware of it, but could not stand the pressure brought against him by bitter and unrelenting opposition. In the early part of the year 1874 an effort was made to establish a church college at Berlin, and at a school meeting held at Martinsburg, H. R. H. was elected general solicitor of the enterprise. He devoted about a year to canvassing and raised a subscription of over \$60,000, but after all it failed.

January 1879, Holsinger and Beer commenced the publication of the Progressive Christian. Brother Beer retired at the end of the year, and Holsinger continued the paper, holding, advocating every measure in church work and improvement which he believed to be consistent with the word of God. The old spirit of prejudice was soon revived, taking the form of persecution rather than simple opposition. Notwithstanding the severe criticism from abroad, from church councils and dignitaries, Elder Holsinger continued to grow in favor with the laity, and was popular with all classes. This was made evident when the Berlin church was territorially divided into four parts. His ordination to the office of bishop was unanimously requested by his own church, and he was chosen to preside over three adjoining congregations. His ordination took place in the year 1880, and this act appeared to have greatly aggravated his opposers, for at the Annual Meeting of 1881 a committee was appointed to visit the Berlin church and deal with Holsinger according to his transgressions. The committee sat on the case for two days in August of the same year, and although they never tried the case, rendered a decision that he could no longer be a member of the church. The decision was rejected by the Berlin church, but was confirmed by the Conference of 1882.

Meanwhile Holsinger continued to preach and to publish the Progressive Christian, with full consent and patronage of his own congregation and that of several adjoining and was endorsed by the Convention of Progressive churches and members held at Ashland, Ohio, July 1882. In June 1882 he moved to Ashland, and the Progressive Christian was consolidated with the Gospel Preacher, and soon afterward the name of the paper was changed to the Brethren Evangelist. During his so-journ at Ashland he was elected trustee of Ashland College and President of the Board. He also traveled two years canvassing for the College and secured subscriptions amounting to over \$20,000. In 1884 he sold his interest in the BRETHREN EVANGELIST to Yoder and Garber. From January 1886 to April 1887, was pastor of the church at South Bend, Ind.; from December 1887 to November 1888, at Lathrop, Calif. From October 1888 to December 1891, he again edited the EVANGELIST, at Waterloo, Iowa, finally selling out to the church, and retired to private life.

Brother Holsinger was married June 1, 1854, to Susannah Shook, and to them were born two children: Annie—Mrs. P. G. Nowag, Berlin, Pa; and Lottie—Mrs. S. J. Holsinger, Michigan Bar, Calif. Brother and Sister H. are at present living with their daughter at Michigan Bar, but their home is at Rosena, San Bernardino county, Calif.